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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

83-5934

9 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Edwin Meese, III
Counsellor to the President

SUBJECT: Cabinet Council Meeting of 1 December 1983

1. At the Cabinet Council meeting, many quarters at the table counseled the President not to approve the NASA manned space station program at this time. Dr. Keyworth made an interesting point when he indicated that there was a need for boldness in long range goals in our program, particularly if the U.S. was to maintain its position of world leadership. He did point out, however, that we ought to establish those goals and build a clear national consensus to support them. I believe it is evident to everyone that without a national consensus it is questionable whether or not the nation can maintain the high level of commitment necessary to sustain, over the long run, major parallel efforts such as strategic forces and intelligence capabilities modernization, defense against nuclear ballistic missiles, and a bold new civil space initiative.

2. I support the thrust of Dr. Keyworth's proposal since it would provide positive recommendations to the President around which a consensus could form. And while it is obvious that such a program would center around our civil space program, Secretary Weinberger and I would be quite prepared to determine the relationship of such a program to our national security. To do so, a reasonable DoD and DCI interface with whatever study is conducted would be necessary in order to ensure it is taken within the context of our national security.

3. I continue to stress that before the U.S. embarks on major new space initiatives we owe the President a complete menu of options which will permit him to address the civil program within the context of our national security needs.

4. Please let me know if I can be of assistance or provide additional information.

William J. Casey

cc Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

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